

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 3 and 12 are currently amended only to correct an obvious error and correct antecedent reference with respect to new claims 15-20 being presented for examination. Previously presented and original claims 1, 2, 4-11 and 13-14 are retained. Claims 15-20 were amended to further define the present invention.

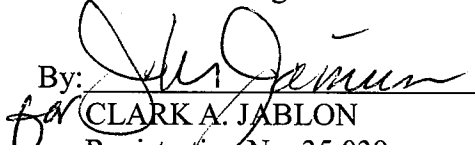
No new matter was entered. Regarding claims 15 and 18, transferring an image from an image forming section to an "intermediate transfer body" (claim 15) or a "transfer belt" (claim 18) is fully supported by at least page 31, line 22 through page 32, line 4 of the specification.

Claims 1-14 were previously allowed. Claims 15 and 18 are believed to be allowable over Nakazato for at least the same reasons as given in the previous Amendment for the patentability of amended claim 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Nobutoshi Chigira et al.

22 Nov. 2006
(Date)

By:  Reg. No. 29,546
for CLARK A. JABLON
Registration No. 35,039
AKIN GUMP STRAUSS HAUER & FELD LLP
One Commerce Square
2005 Market Street - Suite 2200
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Direct Dial: (215) 965-1293
Facsimile: (215) 965-1210

CAJ/gem